

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 147646  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 IO-13 TRSE-00 AID-05 ACDA-12 MCE-00 OMB-01  
ARA-10 /117 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:MCEATON:GAR  
APPROVED BY AF:RMMOOSE  
PM/SAS:COCECIL  
P:GMOOSE  
DOD/ISA:PSOMMER (INFO)  
-----013444 100129Z /61

P R 100015Z JUN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147646

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, NG

SUBJECT: NIGER FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: HQ USAF MSG 052025Z MAY 78

SUMMARY: NIGER FOREIGN MINISTER DJERMAKOYE VISITED  
WASHINGTON MAY 30 TO DISCUSS NIGER'S DEFENSE NEEDS AND  
THE PURCHASE OF C-130 TRANSPORT PLANES FOR THE NIGER  
ARMY THROUGH FOREIGN MILITARY SALES (FMS). DJERMAKOYE  
ASKED FOR FMS FINANCING TO PAY FOR THE ESTIMATED \$55  
MILLION THREE-PLANE PACKAGE. DURING HIS MEETINGS WITH  
STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, DJERMAKOYE WAS  
INFORMED THAT THERE WAS NO PROSPECT FOR FMS FINANCING  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 147646

BEFORE THE FY 1980 BUDGET CYCLE AND THAT THERE WOULD  
ALSO BE STIFF COMPETITION FOR THE LIMITED AMOUNT OF FMS  
FINANCING IN THAT BUDGET. DJERMAKOYE SAID THAT NIGER  
WOULD SEEK OTHER SOURCES OF CREDIT FINANCING FOR THE  
PLANES, BUT REQUEST THAT NIGER ALSO BE CONSIDERED FOR  
FMS CREDITS IN FY 1980. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING A VISIT TO WASHINGTON MAY 30, NIGER FOREIGN MINISTER DJERMAKOYE MET WITH STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE OF THREE C-130 TRANSPORT PLANES FOR THE NIGER ARMY. DJERMAKOYE WAS ACCOMPANIED

BY NIGER AIR FORCE COMMANDER CAPT. FRANCOIS WRIGHT AND NIGER AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. ANDRE WRIGHT. DURING HIS DAY VISIT, APPOINTMENTS WERE ARRANGED WITH UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEFENSE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AGENCY (DSAA) LT. GEN. ERNEST GRAVES.

2. THROUGHOUT HIS TALKS, DJERMAKOYE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGER (GON) HAD BEEN FORCED TO REASSESS ITS SECURITY NEEDS BY OUTBREAKS OF FIGHTING IN HORN, CHAD, THE WESTERN SAHARA AND MOST RECENTLY IN ZAIRE. DJERMAKOYE CHARACTERIZED HIS COUNTRY AS CONSTRICTED BETWEEN MARXISTS IN THE SOUTH (BENIN) AND "PROPHETS" IN THE NORTH. DJERMAKOYE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS TROUBLED BY WESTERN RELUCTANCE TO STAND UP TO MILITARY ADVERTURISM IN AFRICA. AT THE FRANCO-AFRICAN CONFERENCE IN PARIS LAST WEEK, AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAD ASKED FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING TO SERVE AS THEIR "INTERPRETER" IN ENCOURAGING THE UNITED STATES TO PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN AFRICA. DJERMAKOYE SAID THAT HE AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES BELIEVED THE U.S. COULD MAINTAIN STABILITY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 147646

IN AFRICA THROUGH A MORE ACTIVE AFRICAN POLICY. NIGER HAD TURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR ASSISTANCE, BECAUSE OF LONG-STANDING TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. DJERMAKOYE SAID THAT NIGER HAD MADE ITS REQUEST NOW, BECAUSE IT REALIZED THAT ONCE A PROBLEM DEVELOPED, INTERVENTION WAS OFTEN POLITICALLY DIFFICULT. NIGER WAS SEEKING THE CAPABILITY TO MEET ANY MILITARY ADVERTURES ON ITS OWN, AND DEFEND ITSELF UNTIL FRIENDLY ASSISTANCE ARRIVED.

3. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS. DURING HIS VISIT, DJERMAKOYE SAID THAT NIGER WAS SEEKING CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS TO PURCHASE THE C-130 TRANSPORT PLANES. AFTER HE WAS BRIEFED ON THE U.S. BUDGETARY PROCEDURES AND THE MECHANICS OF THE FMS FINANCING PROGRAM, FMS SALES PROGRAM AND THE COMMERCIAL SALES OPTION, DJERMAKOYE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE DELAYS AND UNCERTAINTIES INVOLVED IN WAITING UNTIL FY 1980 TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FMS FINANCING. DJERMAKOYE INSISTED THAT NIGER'S PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION FORCED IT TO RELY ON CREDITS SECURED BY ITS LONG-TERM MINERALS POTENTIAL. DJERMAKOYE WAS RECEPTIVE TO SUGGESTIONS THAT NIGER CONSIDER CREDIT FINANCING THROUGH

COMMERCIAL BANKS OR FROM ARAB SOURCES, AND PROMISED TO PURSUE THIS POSSIBILITY FURTHER.

4. DURING HIS MEETING WITH DJERMAKOYE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE SAID THAT RECENT EVENTS IN SHABA HAD LED THE U.S.

TO DO SOME NEW THINKING ABOUT AFRICAN DEFENSE CONCERNS. THE U.S. WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN COLLECTIVE RESPONSE TO THESE THREATS. THE U.S. WOULD, OF COURSE, CONTINUE ITS PROGRAMS OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE. WITH REGARD TO NIGER'S SPECIFIC REQUEST TO PURCHASE C-130 TRANSPORT PLANES, MOOSE TOLD DJERMAKOYE THAT THE U.S. WOULD FAVORABLY CONSIDER AN FMS SALE OF THESE ITEMS TO NIGER. ALTHOUGH A REQUEST FOR FMS FINANCING WOULD  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 147646

INVOLVE A FIFTEEN MONTH DELAY BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE FY 1980 BUDGETARY REQUEST, MOOSE TOLD DJERMAKOYE THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE "INCLINED TO LOOK FAVORABLY" ON FMS FINANCING FOR NIGER. MOOSE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SUPPORT THE IDEA OF GOVERNMENT FINANCING FOR THE C-130 TRANSPORT PLANES.

5. IN A SEPARATE MEETING, DSAA DIRECTOR LT. GEN. GRAVES EXPLAINED TO DJERMAKOYE THAT THE FY 79 FMS FINANCING REQUEST WAS ALREADY UNDERGOING CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW. THE FY 1980 BUDGET WHICH WOULD SOON BE PREPARED FOR SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS WOULD BE THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO NIGER'S REQUEST FOR FMS FINANCING. GEN. GRAVES EXPLAINED THAT DECISIONS ON NIGER'S REQUEST FOR CREDIT ASSISTANCE WERE MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, AND CAUTIONED THAT THERE WOULD BE STIFF COMPETITION FOR THE LIMITED AMOUNT OF FMS FINANCING IN THE FY 1980 BUDGET PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, IF NIGER COULD FIND ANOTHER SOURCE OF FINANCING, DSAA WOULD DO ITS PART IN MOVING AHEAD WITH THE SALE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE THREE PLANE PACKAGE WOULD REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION BEFORE AN OFFER COULD BE ACCEPTED. AT GEN. GRAVES' SUGGESTION, SEPARATE MEETINGS WERE ARRANGED FOR CAPT. WRIGHT ON MAY 31 TO DISCUSS DELIVERY SCHEDULE PROBLEMS AND TECHNICAL DETAILS OF THE SALE.

6. IN HIS MEETING WITH UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM, DJERMAKOYE SAID THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES WERE URGING THAT THE U.S. TAKE A GREATER ROLE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. REGIONAL STABILITY WAS NECESSARY TO PERMIT AFRICAN STATES TO PURSUE THEIR DEVELOPMENT NEEDS. THE SAHEL STATES IN PARTICULAR WERE GRATEFUL FOR U.S. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, HOWEVER, THEY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 147646

COULD NOT STRUGGLE AGAINST DROUGHT WITHOUT SECURITY. ONCE PEACE HAD BEEN COMPROMISED, THE U.S. NEEDED TO REESTABLISH EQUILIBRIUM. DJERMAKOYE SAID THAT AFRICA MUST BE PREVENTED FROM BECOMING A FOYER OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS.

7. UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT AFRICAN

PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SOLVED BY THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES, AND THAT THE U.S. WAS INTERESTED IN HELPING THEM WITH THESE PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY THROUGH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. THE U.S. REGRETTED INVOLVEMENT BY EXTERNAL FORCES IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. WE HOPED THAT AFRICAN STATES COULD MAINTAIN THEIR OWN SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERVENTION. NEWSOM NOTED THAT IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA CIRCUMSTANCES HAD CREATED OPPORTUNITIES FOR FOREIGN INTERVENTION. ONCE THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE OVER, WE HOPED THAT THE FOREIGN FORCES WOULD BE REMOVED.

8. WITH REGARD TO NIGER'S REQUEST FOR FMS FINANCING, NEWSOM EXPLAINED THAT IF THE U.S. HAD CERTAIN PROBLEMS WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO NIGER, IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH NIGER'S POLITICS. WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD NIGER'S RATIONALE FOR THE TRANSPORT PLANES, NEWSOM SAID THAT HE COULD NOT ENCOURAGE DJERMAKOYE TO ANTICIPATE GRANT OR CREDIT ASSISTANCE. AFTER EXPLAINING CONGRESSIONAL CONTROLS AND U.S. BUDGETARY PROCEDURES, NEWSOM EXPLAINED THAT THE CONGRESS FELT THE USG SHOULD REDUCE ITS ROLE IN ARMS SALES. AS A RESULT, THE COMPETITION FOR FMS FINANCING WAS INTENSE. OF COURSE, THE U.S. WAS PREPARED TO SELL THE PLANES TO NIGER IF ANOTHER SOURCE OF FINANCING COULD BE ARRANGED. IN RESPONSE TO NEWSOM'S INQUIRY ABOUT PRIVATE BANK FINANCING FOR THE PLANES, DJERMAKOYE REPLIED THAT THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, BUT THAT NIGER HAD ALREADY COMMITTED A LARGE PORTION OF ITS URANIUM REVENUES TO THE \$200 MILLION KANDADJI DAM PROJECT ON THE NIGER RIVER. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 147646

DJERMAKOYE SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A FORMAL REQUEST THAT NIGER BE CONSIDERED FOR FMS FINANCING IN THE FY 1980 BUDGET PROPOSAL. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID NIGER WOULD LOOK FOR ALTERNATIVE MEANS TO FINANCE THE PLANES.

9. IN PARTING, NEWSOM MENTIONED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT HE HAD SERVED PREVIOUSLY AS AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA,

WHICH DREW A SMILE FROM DJERMAKOYE WHO REPLIED "THEN YOU MUST UNDERSTAND OUR QUALMS."

10. FYI: REQUIREMENT FOR FINANCING BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH SALE OBVIATES NEED TO PROCESS CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION AND TO PREPARE LOA IN FY 78. SHOULD GON OBTAIN OTHER FINANCING IT SHOULD RENEW REQUEST FOR LOA, AT WHICH TIME WE WILL EXAMINE OUR GLOBAL PRIORITIES, INCLUDING ARMS SALES CEILING CONSTRAINTS, AND ATTEMPT TO PROCEED WITH SALE. END FYI.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MINISTERIAL VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE147646  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** MCEATON:GAR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780242-0674  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780673/aaaackpz.tel  
**Line Count:** 236  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 07aebf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2404945  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NIGER FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON  
**TAGS:** MASS, NG, (DJERMAKOYE, MOUMOUNI ADAMOU)  
**To:** NIAMEY  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/07aebf8b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014